

## MEMORANDUM

Supplement to:  
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** March 5, 2013

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental information to  
resolution supporting Florida  
International University's  
2013 state legislative  
priorities and urging the  
Florida Legislature to enact  
the University's legislative  
priorities

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The accompanying supplement was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime  
Sponsor Commissioner Juan C. Zapata.



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R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

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## Priorities for the 2013 Legislative Session

*FIU encourages the Florida State Legislature to keep its commitment of investing in higher education and to partner with the State University System in working towards improving institutional and system quality, increasing baccalaureate degree production, and contributing to Florida's economy. FIU's top legislative priorities for the 2013 session include:*

### **State Support**

FIU has assumed an aggressive, forward-facing strategic plan to foster job creation and economic development. During the past three years, there has been a 47% increase in applications, enrollment has grown by 10,000 students, graduation rates have risen by nearly 10 percent and the STEM curriculum has been modernized to foster greater interest and enrollments to meet statewide workforce needs. FIU requests that the Florida Legislature keep its promise of investing in higher education by avoiding cuts to the FY13-14 Budget.

### **Performance Based Funding**

The Board of Governors has included in its Legislative Budget Request a total of \$118M in new state funding to be allocated to institutions based on performance indicators. FIU's portion of the funding is \$12.4M, which will be tied directly to the annual work plan and invested in improving graduation rates, increasing STEM bachelor degrees awarded, and Ph.D. production.

### **College of Medicine**

FIU requests \$762,589 in incremental funds for year 7 of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine implementation plan. FIU urges the Legislature to fully support the funding request as approved by the Board of Governors in accordance with the LCME accreditation plan. The College of Medicine is expected to receive full accreditation by the LCME in the spring of 2013 and graduate its first class of medical doctors in May 2013.

### **Hurricane Mitigation**

Each year the Florida Legislature supports FIU hurricane mitigation research projects such as the Public Loss Model, the Wall of Wind, and the International Hurricane Research Center. FIU asks for continued state funding and support of these important initiatives.

### **Public Education Capital Outlay**

With a sharp decline in PECO funding, FIU continues to work with other institutions and community partners to seek alternative ways of investing in operations, maintenance & fixed capital outlay. While maintenance of existing facilities and new construction is needed, FIU continues to maximize its use of space, leading the State University System in space utilization and energy conservation for four years.